

MAY 24, 1965

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SANTO DOMINGO--POINTING THE FINGER

The search for a scapegoat for the Dominican Republic mess has been pursued with as much vigor as the search for a solution to the crisis. The natural first choice was the Communists, but most of those the U.S. said were directing the revolt turned out to be in prison, out of the country or dead. So an effort was made to blame the rebels anyway, because they refused to surrender and were therefore prolonging the bloodshed. When that failed, the military junta was criticized for refusing to agree to a coalition government. The junta forces, however, soon looked like they might crush the rebels, and U.S. officials decided they would be ill advised to antagonize the possible victors. So they turned their attention to the OAS. They said the OAS hadn't been firm enough in handling the crisis and that its representatives actually wanted to go home on weekends and handle the crisis on working days only. The OAS, of course, was already condemning both the U.S. and the UN for interfering with its unceasing efforts to find a just solution.